

## Local 2398

Staff & Clerical Federation, AFT, AFT-Wisconsin, AFL-CIO  
Chippewa Valley Technical College, Eau Claire

July/Aug  
2008

<http://wi.aft.org/CVTC2398/>



### From the President

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It seems as though summer has finally arrived! I hope you are taking some time to enjoy it as it goes by faster than we want it to.

There isn't a whole lot of information to share with you as things have been somewhat quiet compared to this time last year. Our Negotiations Committee has been working collectively with the Faculty and Custodial/Maintenance groups on the health insurance proposal. We want to make sure that we stand together on this issue and show solidarity during this process. It is also bringing the three groups together so that we can work more collectively in the future.

As far as layoffs go, there has only been one member affected. The position is the Central Services/EMS Equipment Tech, with the hours being reduced to 19.5. Because this situation has several factors tied to it, I don't anticipate any movement in the next month or so.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about negotiations, layoffs, or anything that comes to mind.

In Solidarity,  
Lisa



### Labor Relations

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Thanks to all of the members who have brought workplace issues and concerns to our attention. A number of these issues have been positively dealt with in our labor management meetings; some are still ongoing.

As of June 24, we still have three grievances at Step 3, on President Barker's desk. I know that for the members directly involved, this seems like a very long time for these grievances to go on. The grievance procedure is a time consuming process, with time limits at each level which we follow closely.

I want to assure all of our members that we are and will do everything possible to resolve each grievance at the earliest possible time, but we are also willing to move to arbitration if necessary.

In Solidarity,  
Kathy Goodman, Labor Relations Chair

**Births**

Melissa Thornton welcomed  
Brooklyn Doris Thornton  
April 15, 2008  
8 lbs 10 oz  
Congratulations!!



**New Members**

We are pleased to welcome Shana Schmidt to Local 2398!  
Shana started in February 2008 as a Curriculum Assistant. Shana is married to her husband Jeff and they have a rat terrier, Betsy. She is originally from Stillwater, MN and now resides in Eau Claire. Shana has a B.A. in English and Religion from St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN. She previously worked as a Quality Development Specialist at Augsburg Fortress Publishers in Minneapolis and then as a Circulation Assistant at Menards. Shana enjoys reading, cooking, boating, biking, hiking and running.



## Member Contributions

### “Many Voices, One Union”

Submitted by Deb Ausman

“We're here, proud and loud,” declared PSRP chair Lorretta Johnson, president of the paraprofessional chapter of the Baltimore Teachers Union and an AFT vice president, to launch the opening session of the annual PSRP professional issues conference, held April 25-27 in Washington, D.C.

The conference had workshops on everything from "green" building maintenance to school security to Grievance training, but some of the most important lessons came in a talk about former AFT president Albert Shanker by his biographer, Richard Kahlenberg, whose book *Tough Liberal* chronicles Shanker's push to bring school secretaries, paraprofessionals and other support staff into the United Federation of Teachers in New York City.

Shanker felt the union ought to embrace everybody in education except supervisors and called the members' decision to include everyone "the greatest thing the union ever did," Kahlenberg recounted. As UFT president, Shanker fought not only for better wages and benefits but also for a career ladder of training and advancement, which he considered the most powerful form of affirmative action.



PSRP leader Lorretta Johnson

Johnson credited Shanker with prodding her to become a leader. In 1978, when she joined the AFT executive council, "I thought I had arrived—but Al Shanker had more in store." He sent her all over the world as a spokesperson for the union. (Lisa Storms has the book I donated to our local and I have another copy, so feel free to contact us if you'd like to read it.)

There were several highlights of the conference including recognition of the newly affiliated Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA). OSEA was an independent state-wide organization that has worked with AFT for several years and voted to join AFT. They bring over 20,000 new members to AFT PRSP.

During a general session, AFT president Edward J. McElroy acknowledged the work of the PSRPs and counseled them on how to deal with adversaries. He commended them for helping add members. "We're not declining, brothers and sisters," he said. "We're growing, and a lot of that is because of the work you do every day."

But he also reminded attendees that their challenge includes organizing people who already are members of the union. He suggested asking members if they're aware of something the union is doing that they can contribute to, such as political action, or asking for their opinions on important local issues. "You have to organize the organized," he said, "get them to do something on behalf of their co-workers, their families and the community."

The preconference leadership workshop brought new and experienced leaders together to develop and reinforce skills to reach out to members to get them more active.

Pictured below are leaders from three AFT WTCS PSRP locals:



(front) Jacqueline Hass - WTC, Dawn Konse -WTC and Marietta Love – MATC-Milwaukee  
(back) Pam Miller – WTC and Deb Ausman –CVTC.

The conference had over 700 attendees with over 50 different workshops for attendees to choose from. As an AFT PSRP Program and Policy Committee (PPC) member, AFT paid my expenses to attend. Please contact me for more information.

## Committees

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### Local 2398 Executive Council 2008-2009:

President	Lisa Storms
Vice-President	Kim Yoder
Secretary	Kathy Farley
Treasurer	Janet Goldsmith
Labor Relations Chair	Kathy Goodman
Membership Chair	Raeann Hutchinson
Newsletter Chair	Kendra Maves
Website Chair	Kim Yoder

Please visit our website <http://wi.aft.org/CVTC2398/> for a current listing of other committees.